

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR- BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR MONTANA FAMILIES

State Capitol-Room 152  
Helena, Montana  
Wednesday, June 20, 2007

MINUTES-Approved (10-9-07)

Council Members Present:

Minkie Medora, Chairperson  
Shannon Augare  
Lori Brengle  
Mary Danford  
Sheila Hogan  
Bethany Letiecq  
Elaine Topsky  
Angie Wasia

Director Dan Bucks-Revenue  
Commissioner Keith Kelly-Labor & Industry  
Director Joan Miles-DPHHS  
Director Tony Preite-Commerce

Council Members Absent:

Everall Fox  
Barb Stiffarm  
Rober Young

Council Designees and Attendees:

Marissa Kozel-Commerce	Sherrie Downing
Gail Gallik-Commerce	Linda Moodry
Jim Nolan-DPHHS	Mary Berg
Hank Hudson-DPHHS	
Dore Schwinden-Labor & Industry	
Barb Wagner-Revenue	
Pam Haxby-Cote-Office of Economic Development	
Anna Whiting Sorrell-Governor's Office	
Major Robinson-Governor's Office Coordinator of Indian Affairs	
Anne Pichette-Governor's Office	

Call to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Anna Whiting Sorrell who was Acting Chairperson (Minkie Medora will be Chairperson for following meetings) for the meeting. Governor Brian Schweitzer then welcomed the council members and attendees. Anna provided copies of the Executive Orders (NO 3-2007 & NO 9-2007 attached).

### Introductions

Members of the council introduced themselves and shared information about their experiences and what expertise they could bring to the council.

### WIRED

Adam deYong from the Department of Labor and Industry provided information to the members about the WIRED grant. Attending with him were John Ladd and Kathy Tran both of the US Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration. They talked about workforce availability and job training along with the sustainability of the WIRED grant and what could be done to eliminate roadblocks. Council members requested a summary on the WIRED grant.

### Discussion

The members of the council discussed the future of the council and brainstormed ideas for what direction they would like to see the council move. It was decided that the Governor's Executive Order should be the plan. Please see the attached notes from the brainstorming session prepared by Chairperson Medora.

### Follow-up

Members will provide to Anne Pichette any links, articles, documents, etc. that they would like to have shared with all council members. Anne will distribute via email to members.

Adam deYong-WIRED summary

Joan Miles-link to Healthcare Crisis article

Department Directors-one page list of what is working/what programs exist for people

### Next meeting

For the next meeting, council members decided it would be the most productive to have a two-day meeting instead of trying to meet more often as the council gets started.

Members decided to meet August 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. The first day they would like to have people come in to talk with the council about different programs and work that is already being done. They would like to discuss a study being done by Dr. Haines, have Jan Lombardi (or another representative) discuss early childhood education, someone from the Attorney General's office, and someone who can discuss housing.

## NOTES FROM GROUP DISCUSSION TO START THINKING ABOUT NEXT STEPS THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE

### ACTION ITEMS

- Look at various opportunities we have to get moving on our various efforts:
  1. State Policy and funding: Identify legislators from both sides of the aisle to form a caucus that will support our needs in terms of policy as well as funding.
  2. Seek other sources of funding to get some new efforts started to improve workforce development, job training, financial literacy training and job search. Some possible funding sources are: federal grants, private foundations, special enterprise groups.
- Work on building bridges between families and individuals that are economically insecure and existing programs for job training, access to work, livable wages, individual development.
- Need for awareness and education in schools starting at an early age and through high school on the importance of good education, and on the resources available to those looking for help as they get into the adult years. Young children need to be aware of resources that provide job training, financial literacy and other workforce development available in the state.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS NEED INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- We need to have a matrix of all programs and policies that are currently being offered for improving economic security.
- What types of corporations are attracted to Montana? What are they looking for before making the decision to invest in the state? What type of workers do they need?
- Input from low-income clients on what they see as their short and long term needs.
- Innovative ideas and practices that have been started in other states.
- Is there follow through and support for people coming out of the correction system? How do these programs work, how long is the service provided?
- Information policies employers in Montana have for employees – wages, benefits, sick leave, personal leave, other.
- Should the Council work with existing and new employers on setting policies that are “family friendly” and create an atmosphere for success for their employees, including reasonable policies for time off due to illness or serious family needs?

### PLANNING NEXT MEETING:

- We will meet for two days in August. There will be some invited guests on the first day, as well as discussion of the next day’s work.
- The second day will be used mainly to develop vision and plan for guiding future work of the Council. Define what we want to pursue, set priorities. It was suggested that members be asked to match their interest and expertise with each of the four focus areas in the Governor’s Executive order.  
Eventually, we could break into smaller groups to develop recommendations and further actions.

REQUEST BY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DIRECTORS:

The Council is requesting Directors to kindly provide the following information prior to the next meeting:

1. Programs in their departments that have been successful and effective.
2. What they see as their priorities in terms of raising family economic security.
3. Department programs, policies, rules that they feel should be developed further to enhance economic security for more Montanans.
4. Funding spent by their department on workforce development, personal development, financial security, health, access to jobs, social and human needs.
5. How does each director view their agency supporting the work of the Family Economic Security Council?

OTHER

Several people have good literature to share. This information should be sent to Anne to distribute to all council members and other department folks at the meeting.